



**The Catholic Parish of Napier**

Te Pārihi Katorika ki Ahuriri

## **RULE OF LIFE**

This Rule of Life lays out guidelines and/or principles for all parishioners and groups who act, work, meet or minister in the name of the Catholic Parish of Napier. It is not exhaustive. Each group performs its ministry as a communion of disciples (see Acts 2:42-47). Decisions are made in the context of faith as expressed by the Roman Catholic Church. Each group desires to make decisions that reflect the saving message of the Gospel, the mission of the Catholic Parish of Napier, and the complexity of human nature. Avoiding undue formality each group aims for good practice in matters such as taking minutes, confidentiality, transparency, financial expenditure, privacy, health and safety, and conflicts of interest.

This Rule of Life may also apply to the daily life of parishioners. It summarises a Christian way of living; that is, a communion of beloved disciples (Jn 13:34) called by Christ who though imperfect and wounded (Lk 24:40; Jn 20:20) seek to be a welcoming sheepfold (Jn 10:15-18).

### **Each group begins and ends with a form of prayer**

Each group as a communion of disciples is dependent on Christ (Col 2:7). As dependant on Christ a group will begin and end with prayer. The prayer will regularly invoke the three patrons of the parish. When an issue appears irresolvable a group may consider breaking for further prayer. Seeking to be one in heart and mind (Acts 4:32) a group may begin a meeting with a form of faith sharing.

### **Each group invites people of all age groups, languages and cultures to form a communion of disciples**

The Gospel speaks in many languages and cultures (Acts 2:1-13; 1 Cor 9:20). Each group therefore seeks to reflect and be open to the diverse cultures and age groups within the Catholic Parish of Napier. Events and communications will seek to acknowledge the diverse cultures in the Catholic Parish of Napier and the region, giving unique consideration to the Māori people.

A group does not shirk from wrestling with the teaching of Christ in making decisions. Each group acknowledges the importance of being a wise steward (Lk 12:42) as well as the folly of the cross (1 Cor 1:18). This means that sometimes decisions will reflect that 99 have been left for the sake of the 1 (Lk 15:4).

A group works collaboratively with other groups, youth, parish staff, clergy and the parish priest. Decisions within a group are ideally reached after prayer, by consensus and with the appropriate consultation of other groups and/or parishioners.

### **Each group seeks to be hospitable to people of faith and the world**

Conscious that Christ desired all may be one (Jn 17:21) groups for any event consider whether it is appropriate to invite the Catholic Parish of Hastings and the covenant Churches.

A group may also consider it appropriate to invite people from other churches, faiths and the local region.

### **Each group shows gratitude**

Each group is a communion of co-workers (1 Cor 3:9) relying on God and each other. Therefore group members should take care to thank God for each other and all those who assist the work of the group (1 Thess 1:4). This may be done as appropriate with koha, acknowledgments in the newsletter, and/or gatherings. The item of “acknowledgments” may be placed as a recurring item on the group agenda.

### **Each group seeks to make decisions that enhance justice and right relationships between people**

The first Christian communities showed concern for the poor, the prisoner, the widow, the sinner and were generous with their resources (Mt 25:31-46; Act 2:37-47; Jam 1:27). Each group seeks to live what it celebrates in the liturgy. Therefore each group desires to make decisions that express the divine love that brings justice and right relationships between people.

### **Each group seeks to make decisions that are environmentally sustainable**

Each group acknowledges the goodness of creation (Gen 1:31) and that all creation blesses the Lord (Dan 3:57-58). Yet creation also groans for redemption (Rom 8:22). Therefore each group seeks to make decisions that are environmentally sustainable. This colours decision-making including what is purchased, operational processes, and how waste is disposed.

### **Each minister takes up the opportunities provided for formation**

Faith is dynamic. Disciples grow in grace (1 Pet 2:2) as each grasps the height and depth of God (Eph 3:18). Therefore every minister in the Catholic Parish of Napier accepts the need to grow in their ministry through on-going formation and will ordinarily take up the opportunities provided for formation.



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## **What is our RULE OF LIFE?**

**Each group begins and ends with a form of prayer.**

**Each group invites people of all age groups, languages and cultures to form a communion of disciples.**

**Each group seeks to be hospitable to people of faith and the world.**

**Each group shows gratitude.**

**Each group seeks to make decisions that enhance justice and right relationships between people.**

**Each group seeks to make decisions that are environmentally sustainable.**

**Each minister takes up the opportunities provided for formation.**

**Each group works collaboratively, shares all relevant information, seeks to make decisions by consensus and follows right meeting practice and accountability.**